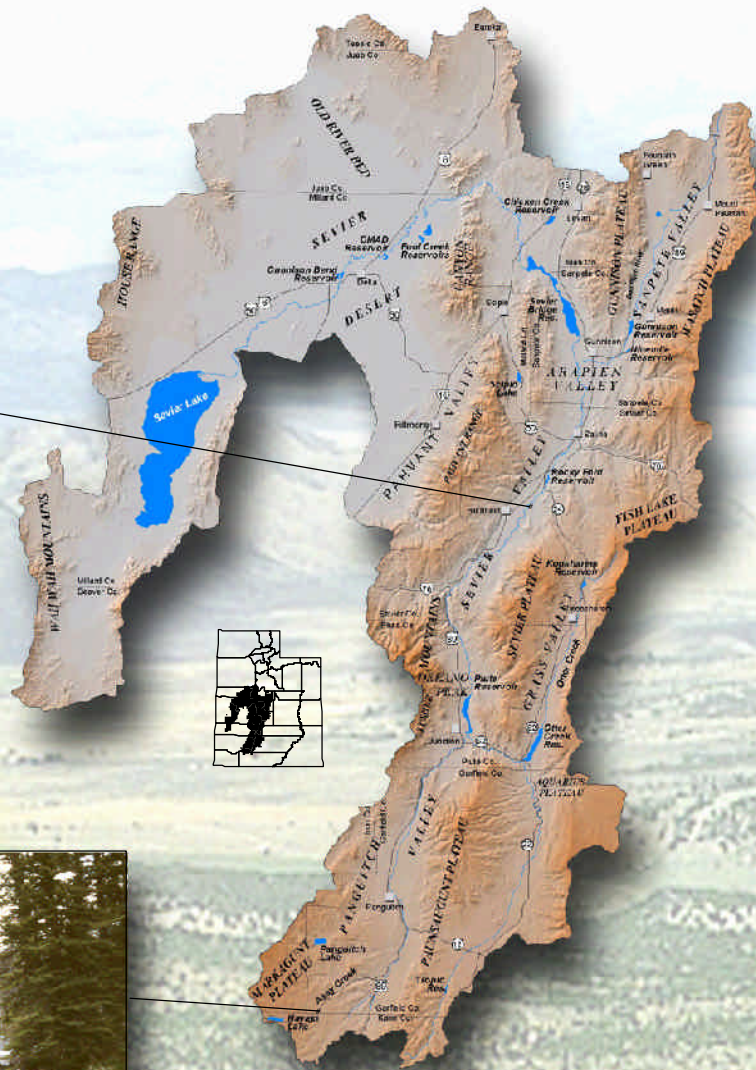


Utah State Water Plan SEVIER RIVER BASIN

June 1999



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Water Resources

State Water Plan - Sevier River Basin

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State Water Plan

Sevier River Basin

Utah Board of Water Resources
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June 1999

Section One Sevier River Basin- State Water Plan

Foreword

The State Water Plan (1990) was prepared to provide a foundation for establishment of state water policy. Within the framework of water policy planning, the state meets its obligation to plan and implement programs to best serve the needs of the people.

In addition to the State Water Plan, more detailed plans have been prepared for the Bear River, Cedar/Beaver, Kanab Creek/Virgin River, Jordan River, Utah Lake and We Basin ber River hydrologic basins. The Sevier River Plan discusses water-related resources and the problems, needs and alternatives for conservation and development measures. Final selection of alternatives will rest with the local decision makers.

This plan is based on information now available, but it can be re-evaluated and revised to reflect changing circumstances. Successful planning needs the participation of all concerned individuals and entities and their responses to the issues at hand. In addition, coordination at all levels of government improves the quality of planning. Common acceptance of resource conservation and development goals enhances the likelihood of reaching these objectives. However, individuals are often able to bring about progress where centralization can stifle innovation. This basin plan is intended to help bring about greater coordination between those involved to assure the needs and demands of the local people are met.

The Sevier River Basin is unique as it is Utah's largest river basin and its entire drainage area is contained within the state. The Sevier River is one of the most utilized rivers in the nation. Only four percent or an average of about 32,900 acre-feet of the total tributary inflow reaches its terminus, Sevier Lake, and then only on an intermittent basis.

To achieve this level of use, water is diverted upstream, used, and then it reappears as return flow and is rediverted downstream and used

again. Water users repeat this process along the entire length of the Sevier River. The groundwater reservoirs are used for storage with recharge and discharge continually occurring, thus maintaining the downstream river flows.

A complex management and distribution system based on judicially decreed water rights defines and protects the use and reuse of the river as it flows downstream. This system includes adjustments for variations in water supply. The Sevier River system is sensitive to even minor changes in weather patterns. Changes in use in upstream sections of the river also have an impact, although sometimes not direct and precise, on downstream return flows, both in timing and volume.

The distribution regime of the Sevier River has been established, both by facilities controlling and managing the river flows, and by stipulation, decree and certification of water rights. Any changes in use must be made according to the laws administering the river.



Sevier River above Clear Creek


ACKNOWLEDGMENT

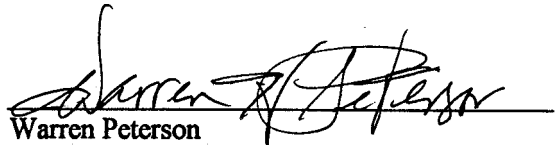
The Board of Water Resources gratefully acknowledges the dedicated efforts of the State Water Plan Steering Committee and Coordinating Committee in preparing the Sevier

River Basin Plan. This work was spearheaded by the River Basin Planning Staff, Division of Water Resources, with valuable assistance from individual coordinating committee members and their associates representing state agencies with water-related missions. Their high standards of professionalism and dedication to improving Utah's natural resources were essential.

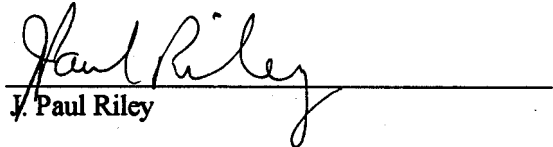
We appreciate the input and assistance of representatives of state and federal cooperating entities, the statewide advisory group and the basin planning advisory group who expressed opinions and provided expertise from a broad spectrum of Utah's population. Representatives of many local entities and groups provided much needed assistance at the "grass-roots" level.

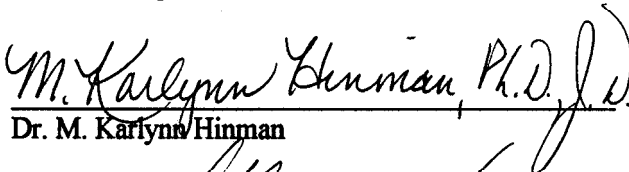
We extend thanks to those who attended meetings and provided written and oral comments. In endorsing this plan, we reserve the right to consider local water projects on their own merits. This plan is an important guide for water development and conservation in the Sevier River Basin.

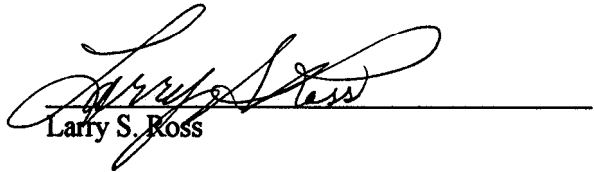

Cleal Bradford, Chair

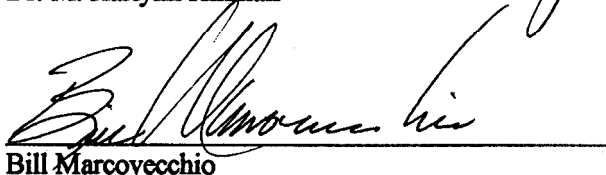

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